

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, ID

SUBJECT: INDONESIA LNG FOR JAPAN

1. PERTAMINA'S WASHINGTON REP, COL. BENSON, ADVISES THAT TWO VICE PRESIDENTS OF INTERNATIONAL UTILITIES CORP., JOHN CHRISTY AND JOHN TURBIDY, WILL BE IN JAKARTA NOVEMBER 23-27/8 TO ATTEMPT A NEGOTIATION WITH PERTAMINA AND WITH BURMAH TANKERS OFFICIALS, THE INTENDED RESULT OF WHICH WOULD BE SUBSTITUTION OF INTERNATIONAL UTILITIES FOR BURMAH TANKERS AS CARRIER TO MOVE LNG FROM ARUN AND BADAK FIELDS TO JAPANESE TERMINALS. INTERNATIONAL UTILITIES ALREADY POSSESSES A "LETTER OF INTENT" SIGNED BY BURMAH TANKERS.

2. ACCORDING BENSON, JAPANESE TOLD PERTAMINA'S PRESIDENT-DIRECTOR IBNU IN TOKYO RECENTLY THAT THEY WOULD NOT MOVE FORWARD WITH FINANCING OF 480 MILLION DOLS COST OVERRUN FOR LNG FACILITIES IN INDONESIA UNLESS PERTAMINA COULD GIVE ASSURANCES THAT TRANSPORTATION UNCERTAINTIES (CAUSED

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BY BURMAH TANKERS FINANCIAL PROBLEMS) HAD BEEN OVERCOME.

3. APPEARS THAT IF PERTAMINA AND INTERNATIONAL UTILITIES
CAN SUCCESSFULLY "NEGOTIATE OUT" BURMAH TANKERS IN JAKARTA

NEXT WEEK, TRANSPORTATION SITUATION CAN PROBABLY BE
IMPROVED TO JAPANESE SATISFACTION.

4. INTERNATIONAL UTILITIES, A PHILADELPHIA COMPANY,
RANKS ABOUT 90TH IN FORTUNE 500, ACCORDING BENSON, HAS
54 PERCENT INTEREST IN BREWER ESTATE AGRICULTURE FIRM
OF HONOLULU, AND HAS SHIPPING INTERESTS.

5. CHRISTY AND TURBIDY WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY COL. TOPE,
USMC-RET, WHO WAS FORMER NAVAL ATTACHE IN JAKARTA AND IS
NOW BREWER EMPLOYEE. AT BENSON'S SUGGESTION,
CHRISTY AND TURBIDY ARE PLANNING TO CALL ON AMBASSADOR
PRIOR DEPARTURE AND TOPE WILL TRY TO ARRANGE. KISSINGER

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